

IOWA

Department of Natural Resources

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is the state agency charged with conserving and enhancing Iowa's natural resources.

The general direction of DNR operations is set forth in the Code of Iowa 455A.2: "A department of natural resources is created, which has the primary responsibility for state parks and forests, protecting the environment, and managing energy, fish, wildlife, and land and water resources in this state." Governing policies and

DNR Mission:
**To conserve and
enhance our
natural resources
in cooperation
with individuals
and organizations
to improve the
quality of life for
Iowans and ensure
a legacy for future
generations.**

administrative rules are set by the DNR's governor-appointed director and two governor-appointed citizen commissions, the seven-member Natural Resource Commission that oversees fish, wildlife, parks and forestry issues and the nine-member Environmental Protection Commission that oversees environmental issues. Each commission meets monthly.

In the past year, Director Jeffrey Vonk has led an effort to reorganize the department into three operational divisions — **Conservation and Recreation**, **Environmental Services**, and **Management Services** — and the Director's Office. The divisions each have 5 functional bureaus or programs. The goal in choosing the

organizational structure is to find integrated solutions to natural resource issues by developing consistent methods of approaching customer relationships, information gathering and analysis, process management and money savings.

Within the Director's Office are the **Deputy Director** and **Policy and Planning Coordination** functions. The **Legal Services Bureau** provides legal counsel to the Director's Office and the rest of the department. The **Communications Bureau** staff publishes the *Iowa Conservationist* magazine, operates the Springbrook Conservation Education Center north of Guthrie Center, and provides communication products and services for the department.

Conservation and Recreation Division

The Conservation and Recreation Division is organized into five bureaus: Wildlife, Fisheries, Law Enforcement, Forestry, and Parks and Preserves.

The **Wildlife Bureau** maintains about 300,000 acres of public land that provides habitat for game and nongame wildlife, as well as public hunting and other outdoor recreational pursuits. Staff biologists provide wildlife habitat assistance to private landowners, conduct wildlife research, and recommend hunting and trapping seasons. The bureau is active in acquiring additional public wildlife lands from willing sellers. Research and restoration programs are also conducted on a variety of nongame species.

DNR Goals:

- Iowans will value and engage in our natural resources.
- Iowans will have a healthy and safe environment.
- There will be abundant, high-quality opportunities for responsible use and enjoyment of natural resources.
- DNR employees will be our greatest strength.

DNR By The Numbers:

- Provides outdoor recreational opportunities for more than 755,000 licensed hunters, anglers and boaters and nearly 1 million wildlife-enthusiasts.
- Welcomes 14 million visits to 84 state parks each year.
- Develops and manages 425,000 acres of public land, including 84 parks, 450 wildlife areas, 275 lakes and 10 state forests. DNR land is valued at \$110.6 million, infrastructure is valued at \$140.1 million and equipment is valued at \$28.3 million.

The *Fisheries Bureau* provides access to public fishing areas and develops fish habitat, controls species, removes rough fish and stocks fishing waters. It operates fish hatcheries throughout the state and conducts research aimed at improving sport fish management. The bureau is also active in developing new public waters to improve angling opportunities.

The *Law Enforcement Bureau's* conservation officers enforce laws related to fish, wildlife, boating, snowmobiling and all-terrain vehicles. They assist in wildlife and fish population surveys, provide conservation information to the public, and conduct hunter, boater, ATV and snowmobile safety programs.

The *Forestry Bureau* provides forestry and prairie technical assistance to Iowa tree, forest and prairie owners and businesses. Services include forestry and prairie management planning, cost-share programs and education efforts. The bureau manages more than 40,000 acres of forests for timber, wildlife, watershed protection and recreation. It operates state nurseries in Ames and Montrose, producing 4 million tree and shrub seedlings annually at low cost to the public for erosion control, wildlife habitat and reforestation.

The *Parks and Preserves Bureau* operates and maintains 84 parks and recreation areas in the state, which provide facilities for camping, cabins, picnicking, trails, swimming, boating and fishing. The bureau is also responsible for more than 90 state preserves set aside for their natural or cultural significance. The bureau supervises various programs in recreation planning and resource protection.

Environmental Services Division

The Environmental Services Division consists of five bureaus: Water Quality, Air Quality, Field Services and Compliance, Energy and Waste Management, and Geological Survey and Land Quality.

The *Water Quality Bureau* manages water protection programs including safe drinking water, wastewater and storm water discharge, industrial pretreatment, state loans for wastewater and drinking water system construction, water quality monitoring, flood plain management and dam safety. The bureau is also involved with nonpoint source pollution prevention projects and animal feeding operation permits.

The *Air Quality Bureau* manages programs to protect air quality in the state including issuance of construction and operating permits for sources of air contaminants, monitoring air quality, and testing emissions from sources.

The *Field Services and Compliance Bureau* operates out of six field offices across the state. Staff make routine inspections of permitted facilities, handle citizen complaints and respond to spills of hazardous materials. Staff also help local governments, businesses and individuals understand and comply with state and federal laws. If technical assistance and cooperative activities do not achieve compliance, enforcement actions may be taken.

The *Energy and Waste Management Bureau* is responsible for recommending and carrying out state policies that improve management of energy resources through energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy. The bureau also helps Iowans establish sustainable waste management practices by offering pollution prevention and responsible waste management programs.

The *Iowa Geological Survey and Land Quality Bureau* collects, synthesizes and interprets information on Iowa's mineral and water resources to ensure they are properly developed, managed and protected. The bureau provides Geographic Information System services and products, and directs the Water Quality Monitoring Initiative. The bureau also oversees programs to protect

land and groundwater resources from underground storage tank leaks and spills, contaminated soils, abandoned hazardous waste sites and accidental spills of hazardous materials.

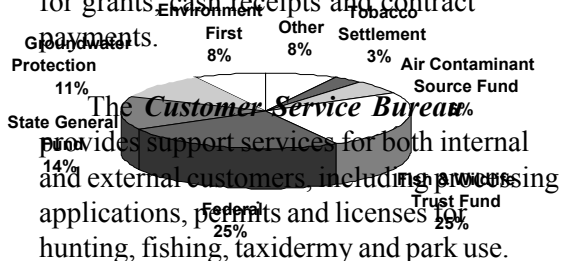
Management Services Division

The Management Services Division consists of four bureaus and one program: Engineering and Realty Services, Budget and Finance, Customer Service and Information Technology. It also oversees the agency's volunteer program.

The **Engineering and Realty Services Bureau** provides engineering, construction and related services for state-owned recreational facilities. The bureau acquires recreational properties, and coordinates land management practices and the leasing of DNR land for agricultural purposes. In addition, they aid soil conservation practices on state and private lands within the watersheds of state-owned lakes.

The Budget and Finance Bureau

The **Budget and Finance Bureau** coordinates the department's budget and oversees procedures for the department, transactions for grants, cash receipts and contract payments.

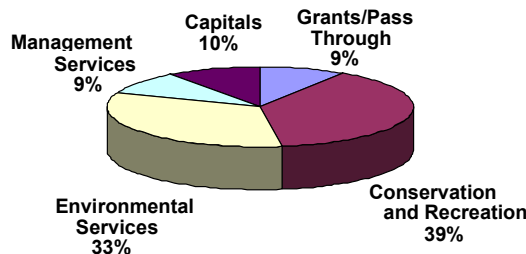


The **Customer Service Bureau** provides support services for both internal and external customers, including processing applications, permits and licenses for hunting, fishing, taxidermy and park use.

The **Information Technology Bureau** provides computer network and technical support, and maintains e-mail servers throughout the department.

The **Volunteer Program** coordinates the department's Keepers of the Land/AmeriCorps activities around the state. In 2001, almost 30,000 volunteers donated more than 109,000 hours, representing \$1.8 million. The Keepers of the Land/AmeriCorps Program has 22 full-time, two part-time and 18 summer members this year.

Department of Natural Resources
EXPENDITURES FY2003 (\$110 Million)



Department of Natural Resources
REVENUE FY2003 (\$110 Million)

The DNR has a budget of \$110 million from various revenue sources, including various state and federal government programs. Most have very specific, designated uses.

About 14 percent of the DNR's budget comes from state general funds and are most flexible in their use. Federal funds comprise 25 percent of DNR revenue.

Many DNR programs provide significant economic stimulus to local economies. Hunters, anglers and wildlife enthusiasts spent \$1.7 billion on equipment and trips in 2001. Recycling processors, end-users and equipment manufacturers directly generate \$2.4 billion in industrial output annually and support more than 11,000 jobs.

DNR By The Numbers:

- Writes permits for confined animal waste facilities, reviews more than 3,000 manure management plans, permits more than 300 solid waste facilities, and writes more than 2,000 air permits.
- Oversees more than 3,000 underground storage tank sites and manages more than 2,000 sites with leaking tanks. Has active oversight of more than 220 contaminated sites.
- Conducted 17,000 inspections in Fiscal Year 2001, writing 230 enforcement orders; the remainder received compliance assistance.
- Answers more than 77,000 telephone calls annually. Provides the Iowa Conservationist to more than 26,000 subscribers. Distributes more than 1 million regulations and informational brochures annually.

DNR Customers:

- **2.9 million Iowa citizens**, including organizations, special interest groups, permit and license holders, landowners, youth and adult education audiences, concerned citizens and more.

- **Agriculture**
- **Business and Industry**
- **Elected Officials**
- **Internal DNR Staff**
- **Local Governments**
- **News Media**
- **State and Federal Agencies**



A Message from the Director

Dear Iowans,

The DNR is committed to improving and enhancing the natural resources of our beautiful state.

I would like to share three core beliefs the DNR is incorporating into our programs, our relationships with customers, and the way we do business:

1. Focus on the Resource – Iowa needs to be innovative in creating the best result for the natural resource. That means finding new partnerships and new resources for delivering projects, while breaking down processes and barriers.

2. Coach for Compliance – Our goal when working with business and industry is

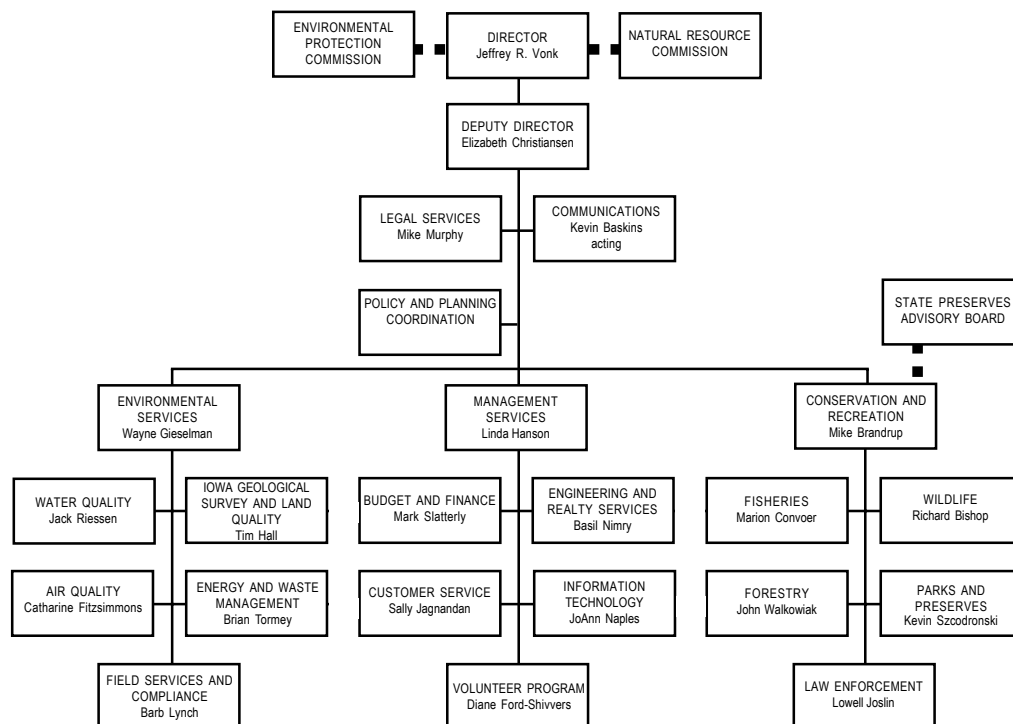
to assist them with solutions for complying with regulations. As an agency, we are working to improve our service so we can achieve compliance in our state.

3. Foster Local Leadership – Real and sustainable solutions happen at the local level. Ultimately, care and protection of the resource are in the hands of those who live near it, and we will encourage citizens and local groups to work side by side and make a lasting impact for the future.

We look forward to working with you to protect the water, air and land of Iowa, while creating opportunities for our habitats and wildlife to thrive, and for our citizens to enjoy them.

Sincerely,

Jeff Vonk, Director



Contact Us!

DNR Web Site:
www.iowadnr.com
Director's Office:
 (515) 281-5384
General Information:
 (515) 281-5918
Fax:
 (515) 281-6794

DNR Employees

The DNR has 1,035 full-time equivalents (FTE), 855 of which are permanent employees. Seasonal employees, interns and vacancies comprise remaining positions. Males (76 percent) outnumber females, and Caucasians (94 percent) outnumber minorities. The average employee is 45 years old with 15 years of tenure. About 77 percent

of staff have more than five years of experience, and 35 percent have more than 20 years. All have completed high school, while 76 percent have earned bachelor's degrees or higher, including master's degrees (18 percent) and doctorate level degrees (4 percent). The largest position classes are professional, requiring training in scientific, engineering and conservation fields.